

The Catholic Parishes of Borehamwood
St Teresa of the Child Jesus 291 Shenley Road, WD6 1TG
SS John Fisher & Thomas More 28 Rossington Ave, WD6 4LA
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21st December 2025: 4th Sunday of Advent (Yr.A): Double Edition

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Services for the forthcoming week

Saturday 20th December	Vigil Mass: 4th Sunday of Advent (SSJFTM) 6pm	Kathleen & George Parsons RIP & Son Lenny RIP
Sunday 21st December	4th Sunday of Advent (SSJFTM)	8.30am Rita Rawlings RIP (St. T) 10am Diane Stanton RIP (St. T) 12pm Clara DeSouza RIP (St. T) 9.15am Una Butcher & Nelia Medar RIP (St. T) 9.15am Mary Apsitis Int.
Monday 22nd December	Feria	
Tuesday 23rd December	Feria	
Wednesday 24th December	The Nativity of the Lord: Children's Mass (St. T) 5pm Mick Rooney RIP	Vigil Mass (St. T) 8pm Martin, Konsta & Nnamdi Int.
	Christmas Carol Service (SSJFTM) 11.30pm	
Thursday 25th December	The Nativity of the Lord (SSJFTM) 12am Ana, Josh & Family Int.	(St. T) 10am Anne Duruaku Int.
Friday 26th December	St. Stephen, the 1st Martyr (St. T) 12 noon Joao Baptista Coutinho RIP	& Santana Piedade Costa RIP
Saturday 27th December	Vigil: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (SSJFTM) 6pm	Evelyn Doegah RIP & Victor Cyril Doegah RIP Ann.
Sunday 28th December	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (SSJFTM) 8.30am	Kiera Curran RIP (St. T) 10am George Wolstencroft RIP (St. T) 12 noon Sarah Bidone Int. (St. T) 9.15am Teresa Healy RIP (St. T) 9.15am World Peace in 2026
Monday 29th December	St. Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr	
Tuesday 30th December	Mass of the 6th Day within the Octave	
Wednesday 31st December	Mass of the 7th Day within the Octave (St. T) 9.15am Romana Mascarenhas RIP	
Thursday 1st January	Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (St. T) 12 noon Evelyn Doegah RIP	
Friday 2nd January	No Mass	
Saturday 3rd January	Vigil: 2nd Sunday after the Nativity (SSJFTM) 6pm	Kelly Health
Saturdays: Confession at St. Teresa's 11-11.45am and SSJFTM 5-5.40pm.		

Fr. Jude Writes: THE SIGN OF EMMANUEL IS THE ANSWER

Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanu-el. (Isaiah 7:14)

As I was reflecting on the Readings of the 4th Sunday of Advent, especially the first, I remembered that I myself had asked for a sign. It is not bad to ask for a sign, otherwise the Prophet Isaiah would not have asked Ahaz to ask. But when we do so, it has to be "from the Lord". It is not the same as "curiously seeking for a sign" condemned by Jesus (Mt.12:39). When the process is initiated by the Spirit of God, and directed to His glory, and carried out in trust, it is a noble one.

At my First Profession in 1992, I had asked the Lord for a sign with respect to the commitment I was about to make: "whether it would be acceptable to him". On that morning, I received a "visible manifestation" with respect to "my question". I have from time to time received visible and clear signs in answer to my doubts, with regard to assignments given to me. These "assurances" fortify me very much for any assignment.

Beloved, we are all made in the image and likeness of God and we are all His children, drawing our very existence from him (Acts 17:28). There is nothing the Lord does, without first revealing through signs to his prophets (Amos 3:7). We are all Priestly, People, Kingly People, Holy People, chosen by God (1Peter 2:9). He wants his children to ask in faith (John 16:24) that their joy may be complete. That is why He came: to answer our questions and complete our joy (John 10:10).

Dear beloved, we are very fortunate indeed because even as the "least in the Kingdom of God, we are "Great and Graced" (Mt 11:11). The Lord Jesus Christ has been offered to us as the answer to all life's puzzles and questions. He is both the SIGN and ANSWER that encapsulates every other sign and answer.

As we get nearer to the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, may we experience a renewed anointing unto a ceaseless awareness of the everyday signs of His love which accompanies us from moment to moment!

Thank you for your generosity with weekly offerings.

Loose Plate: £423.79

Envelopes: £211.40

Total: £635.19 Weekend: 013/14.12.25

November: Contactless = £1386.84 (transaction fees to be deducted) Standing Orders: £2917

Thank you to our Counters and to our Bookkeeper, Amanda.

RCIA/Catholic Instruction: Monday 12th January, 7.30pm, St. Teresa's 'Our Lady Chapel'. Session 16: Forgiveness, Healing and Mission. Any adult can attend this session to deepen their faith.

First Holy Communion: Sunday 11th January 11.45-1pm, St. Teresa's Parish Centre (Fr. Dominic's Hall)

Confirmation: Tuesday 13th January 6.15-7.30pm, St. Teresa's Parish Centre (Fr. Dominic's Hall). Moving forwards, please do not send assignments to the Parish Office. Please send assignments directly to the Catechetical Coordinator: borehamwoodcat@rcdow.org.uk. Thank you.

Catholic Certificate of Practice: Please complete an application form (at the back of each church) and return it to the Parish Office. Please contact the Parish Office to make an appointment to see Fr. Jude, together with your child/ren. Fr. Jude is normally available on Saturdays at 12 noon. You will need to bring your child's Baptism Certificate, First Holy Communion Certificate (if applicable) and Mass Attendance Card—which you will have been getting stamped, after weekend Masses.

Important Contingency Collection 27.12.25! The gutters at SSFTM are beyond 'patch up' repair. Due to their age, the required parts are no longer obtainable. The whole guttering needs to be replaced. This will come at considerable expense. If this action is not taken, it could lead to more widespread damage of the roof and internal leakages, resulting in further costs. This needs to be avoided. Please donate if you can. Thanks!

Senior Citizens' Party & Raffle: Thank you to all who made this a great success! Congratulations to our winners! The main prize hamper winner: Sheila. Other winners: Shaun, Angela W, Jim, Pauline, Michael, Anne, Andrea, Mike, Nina, Eileen, Ruby, Paul, Angela A, Ama. Approximately £229 has been raised—thank you!

Thank you to Angela W for organising prizes which were donated by TESCO. Thanks to their staff, George and Emma, for preparing the hamper. **OUTSTANDING TICKET WINNER: PINK 104**—Please claim your prize from St. Teresa's Sacristy. Thank you.

Catholic Children's Society: Throughout Advent and the festive period, we will be collecting for this charity which is dear to Cardinal Vincent Nichols' heart. *"We provide specialist support that empowers young people to make positive changes and rediscover their hope. They want a future they can look forward to and we're here to make sure they get it. Working alongside young people, their families and community, we will not rest until together, step-by-step, we've created a society built for all children."*

PRAYER FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND

Father, we thank you for the gift of your Son in the Eucharist. We now place before you all the sick and housebound of our parish. As they share in this Eucharist with us, we pray that they may come to know the depth of your love for them and, the joy, the peace and healing of your presence. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen



If you would prefer to give your offertory by contactless and you can't get to the machine, please use the QR code here which is for St Teresa's.

Welcome Ophelia Lue & Mari Kristel Prenga! Our Baptisms usually take place on a Saturday around 1pm, with a Rite of Welcome, at your usual Mass, the weekend before. They are individual ceremonies. **If you would like your child to be Baptised, please contact the Parish Office for a form or pick one up from the back of the church.** You will also need to complete a Baptism Preparation Course. This is held on the first Saturday of every month, at St. Teresa's Church, in the Our Lady Chapel. Please register with the Parish Office in advance.



HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Fr. Jude, Fr. Fidelis and the Parish Team wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

Thank you for all of your love and support throughout 2025!

Christmastide Mass Schedule: This is available at the back of each church, on the notice boards & website.

Parish Office: This will be closed from Wednesday 24th December and will reopen on 5th January, at 10am. A reminder that the Office is normally open on weekdays (except Wednesdays) from 10-2pm.

Fr. Jude's Availability:

Fr. Jude will say Masses but then be unavailable on these days:

December: 23rd, 25th, 26th, 27th, 29th, 30th & 2nd January.

Thank you...to Paul Caulfield & volunteers for assembling the Crib. Thanks also to Black & Cook for the beautiful flowers!

The Newsletter: In order to be more sustainable, we would like to produce less newsletters. This will not only help the environment but it will also help the financial health of the parish. One step is to please consider receiving the newsletter via email. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to be added to our email list: borehamwood@rcdow.org.uk. When on the list, Ushers will understand if you politely decline a hard copy of the newsletter. Thank you to those already on our email list!

Car Parks & Parking: When you park, please do so in a way that does not obstruct other vehicles. They may need to leave before you do. It is your responsibility to park sensibly, in a way that does not cause problems for car park users or neighbours. Thanks!

HEALTH & SAFETY! The Diocese has advised no kissing/touching of statues or their mounts/stands. It can cause movement of the statue, with their immediate or eventual fall. It can lead to loosening or movement of their mount/stand which can lead to danger. We appreciate your understanding in this matter. Thank you.

St Teresa's church is monitored by CCTV cameras 24 hours a day. Live streaming of all services takes place at St Teresa's and SS John Fisher & Thomas More. These can be viewed at www.churchservices.tv/borehamwood or through the link on our website.

FIRE SAFETY NOTICE: If anyone has difficulty in hearing, walking or anything else that may slow down safe exit in the event of a fire, please let us know before the service starts, so that we can arrange assistance for you.